Water Supply and Quality

The state's water system is in trouble. The delta that provides 60% of Southern California's water supply is fragile. Global warming will worsen drought and reduce flows on the Colorado River, another key water source for the region. The water needs of a rapidly expanding population will test the limits of both delta and river systems strained by the effects of climate change.

The Regional Comprehensive Plan

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION of GOVERNMENTS

Did You Know

- The Department of Water Resources forecasts a 2.4 to 6.2 million acre-feet gap between water demand and water supply in drought years.
- Current global warming studies predict smaller winter snowpacks that could reduce freshwater stream flows by 30% during the spring.
- Stormwater pollutants are linked to reproductive difficulties, viral infections, and immune deficiencies. Swimmers and surfers exposed to polluted runoff have reported ailments including stomach flu, respiratory infections and skin rashes.

Strategic Priorities

- Develop an integrated water management plan for the region.
- Increase storage capacity and expand the use and reuse of recycled wastewater.
- Capture, clean up, and reuse stormwater.
- Develop river parkways, restore and protect urban streams, and keep contaminated storm water runoff out of rivers, lakes and streams.
- Stimulate investments in water use efficiency and conservation to reduce energy consumption.
- Increase water storage capacities with new surface and groundwater reservoirs.

What SCAG Will Do

- Develop regional plans to integrate water supply and quality objectives that will accommodate future growth.
- Work with local governments to initiate the best management practices for each of its member communities.
- Advise SCAG member cities on how to access bond money for water quality and conservation projects.

What Communities Can Do

- Participate in integrated water management plans and projects.
- Implement tiered water rates to encourage conservation.
- Increase implementation of water recycling projects.
- Install catch basin inserts and other structures throughout the city to capture, retain and treat polluted stormwater and reuse clean water for irrigation at open space and parks.
- Purchase and develop land to create water-cleansing landscapes and parkways that reduce stormwater pollution through natural filtration and treatment.
- Landscape with native, drought-tolerant plants and use weather-based irrigation systems.

REGIONAL Comprehensive Plan

Helping Communities Achieve a Sustainable Future

More information: scag.ca.gov/rcp Comments & Questions: rcpinfo@scag.ca.gov